



Homeland Security for Your Spiritual Journey

Psalm 121

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

Psalm 121 was sung by Hebrew pilgrims as they traveled up to Mount Zion on holy days for worship. During these times, most houses and cities in Israel were left undefended, open to plunder and enemy attack. The travelers faced dangers from robbers hiding in the hills, from the heat of the desert, and from personal injury because of the harsh terrain. It was a time of great insecurity and fear. Back then, they longed to feel the same safety and protection that we seek today.

We all are travelers on the journey of life. Sometimes it is a dangerous journey. Psalm 121 tells us that we can trust God for protection on our spiritual journey. This psalm answers **three** basic questions about our personal security:

I. What are the choices for our security?

(verses 1 and 2)

1. You can trust the substitutions for God

“the hills”

2. Or, You can trust the Creator of everything

“the Maker of heaven and earth”

II. What are the promises of our security?

(verses 3 - 7)

1. God will stabilize you

“will not let your foot slip”

2. God will protect you

*“neither slumber nor sleep”
“The LORD watches over you”*

3. God will defend you

“shade ... sun ... moon ... harm”

III. What is the extent of our security?

(verse 8)

1. God’s protection in our daily life

“coming and going... now”

2. God’s protection in our eternal life

“forevermore”

Your Response:

1. Psalm 121 is called a “*song of ascents*.” It was one of many that were sung by Jewish pilgrims as they traveled up to Jerusalem to worship and celebrate. But they faced dangers on the trip. What dangers are you facing as you travel life’s pathway?
2. In verse 1, the psalmist asked himself: where he would find help and security? Where are the possible places that most people can seek help and security? How trustworthy are those places? What are some of the places and/or things that you personally trust for your personal security?
3. What are your greatest worries, uncertainties, and fears? How have you seen God protect you in the past? How do you need His help this week? What things are you facing?
4. List the characteristics of God’s security package according to Psalm 121. What are God’s promises to you? Claim these promises and apply them to the things that worry you right now.
5. Spend some time in personal prayer. Ask God to take control over your fears, troubles, problems, uncertainties, and dangers. Read Psalm 121 again. Now, affirm the promises of this psalm in a prayer of confidence to the Lord.

Resources:

High and Lifted Up (Cuts 1 and 3) on a CD by The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
International Critical Commentary: Psalms by Charles and Emilie Briggs
Exposition of Psalms by H.C. Leupold
When God Doesn’t Make Sense by James Dobson
As the Towers Fell by Lisa Chilson-Rose